



STAR WARS
THE SITH WAR
4 OF 6

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STAR WARS TALES OF THE JEDI

The Sith War



Anderson • Carrasco • Heike

STAR WARS[®] TALES OF THE JEDI[™] The Sith War

Kevin J. Anderson
Writer

Dario Carrasco, Jr.
Penciller

**Mark G. Heike, Bill Black,
David Jacob Beckett**
Inkers

Willie Schubert
Letterer

Pamela Rambo
Color artist

Hugh Fleming
Cover artist

Bob Cooper
Editor

Scott Tice
Logo & book design

Special thanks to
Allan Kausch & Lucy Autrey Wilson at Lucasfilm Licensing

MIKE RICHARDSON
publisher

NEIL HANKERSON
executive vice president

DAVID SCROGGY
vice president of publishing

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vice president of sales & marketing

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vice president of finance

MARK ANDERSON
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CINDY MARKS
director of production & design

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art director

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computer graphics manager

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director of accounting

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marketing director

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Jedi Holocaust

Ulic Qel-Droma's impetuous raid on the capital world of Coruscant has ended in disaster. While Ulic's general, Mandalore, leads troops through the city streets, Ulic's lover and co-conspirator, Aleema, has secretly betrayed him, allowing Ulic to be taken prisoner. Aleema usurps command of the uprising and orders Mandalore to follow her, leaving Ulic to his fate.

But Mandalore quietly uncovers proof of Aleema's treachery and vows to rescue his master, whatever it may take. While Aleema and her Krath warriors develop plans for a major military strike, Mandalore seeks the aid of another ally — Exar Kun, the Dark Lord of the Sith.

Meanwhile, Kun launches his own insidious strike at the heart of the Old Republic. He has dispatched his squad of Sith converts, power-hungry young Jedi who have been possessed by ancient Sith spirits, on a dark mission — to strike swiftly and unexpectedly to kill their own Jedi Masters!

On Coruscant, Ulic is brought to trial for his rampage against the Republic. Though Ulic's Jedi friends speak on his behalf — including his brother Cay and Nomi Sunrider — the prospects look grim. Then the chamber doors burst open, and Kun enters, flanked by Mandalore and well-armed Massassi warriors. Using dark Sith powers, Kun takes over the proceedings, freeing Ulic and then manipulating the great speaker like an amusing puppet before killing him.

The entire trial has turned into a game for Ulic and Kun — until Master Vodo-Siosk Baas, Kun's own teacher, comes forth bravely to challenge Kun. After a furious battle, Kun kills his former master on the Senate floor, to the horror of all spectators. Victorious, Kun and Ulic take their forces and depart for Kun's secret Sith stronghold on the jungle moon of Yavin Four, proclaiming that their conquest has only just begun.

AVIN FOUR.

YOUR CAPTURE ON CORUSCANT WAS NO ACCIDENT, MY LORD ULIC...

"YOU WERE BETRAYED BY ALEEMA. I HAVE PROOF."

SHE HAS ALWAYS MANIPULATED ME... FIRST THROUGH TORTURE, THEN POISON...

"THEN LOVE."

SHE TRICKED ME INTO KILLING HER COUSIN, SATAL KETO, TO INCREASE HER OWN POWER...

"THEN SHE WANTED TO GET RID OF ME..."

"SO THAT SHE MIGHT CONTROL EVERYTHING..."

"BUT WE KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH TRAITORS--NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE."

OUR PLANS ARE PROCEEDING. WITHIN DAYS OUR MILITARY STRIKES WILL BE LIKE A FIRESTORM ACROSS THE GALAXY.

ULIC!

THE REPUBLIC AND THE JEDI CAN DO NOTHING... AS WE'VE ALREADY PROVED!

I'M GLAD TO BE HERE WITH YOU, ULIC... WILL YOU BE LEADING THE ATTACK?

NO, ALEEMA... I THINK WE'LL LET YOU HAVE THE HONOR.

DESPITE ALEEMA'S SEDUCTIVE ATTENTIONS, ULIC GEL-PROMA IS FAR MORE TROUBLED BY HIS MEMORIES OF NAMI SLARKIPER...

1 NIBERIA, IN THE STENNESS SYSTEM.

AFTER THE TRIAL OF UL-KI GEL-DROMA AND THE MURDER OF MASTER VOTO, NOMI GUNRIDER HAS RETURNED TO A PLACE OF POWERFUL MEMORIES FOR HER...TO MASTER THON, HER FIRST TEACHER.

MASTER THON!

DESPITE HER JEDI POWERS, NOMI FEELS HELPLESS. SHE AND HER FRIEND, GYZIAR, HAVE COME FOR QUIET HEALING...

...AND FOR FURTHER TRAINING.

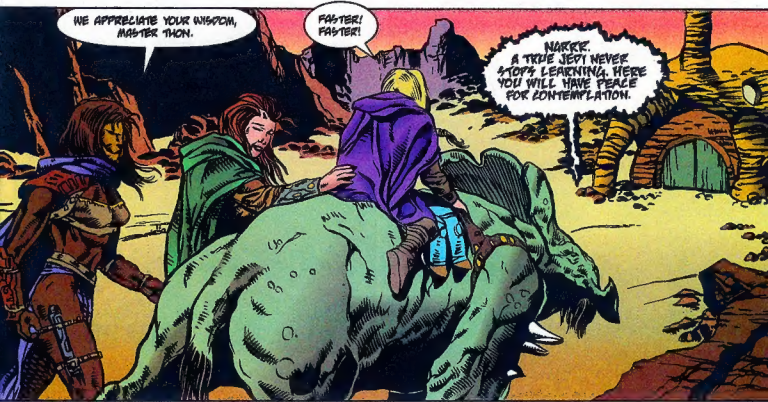
NARKTH
WHAT I SEE YOU HAVE BROUGHT THE CHILD VIMA.

GOOD. LITTLE ONE DAY SHE WILL BE A JEDI HERSELF.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR WISDOM, MASTER THON.

FASTER!
FASTER!

NARKTH.
A TRUE JEDI NEVER STOPS LEARNING. HERE YOU WILL HAVE PEACE FOR CONTEMPLATION.



THERE HAVE COME TO
MASTER THON'S WORLD,
BUT WITH A MORE
SINISTER INTENT.

EXAR KUN HAS ISSUED
A DEATH SENTENCE
FOR ALL OF THE OLD
JEDI MASTERS--
INCLUDING THON!

OSS WILUM, MASTER
THON'S OTHER
STUDENT...

...NOW POSSESSED
BY SITH EVIL!

IS THIS
THE PLACE,
OSS WILUM? I
CAN FEEL THE
DARK SIDE
HERE!

THIS
IS THE PLACE,
CRADD.

...EVERYTHING
WE NEED IS HERE--
TO DESTROY OUR
ENEMIES.

THE LAKE IS A
LAIR FOR CREATURES
OF THE DARK SIDE,
HELD AT BAY BY
MASTER THON'S
POWERS...

...UNTIL THEY ARE
RELEASED BY A
NEW POWER!



YOUR
TARGETS ARE
BELOW.

ALL MUST
DIE, TO MAKE
WAY FOR THE NEW
6TH GOLDEN
AGE.

ALL
MUST
DIE...

...EVEN
SYLVAR.

SAVING THE IMPENDING ATTACK, THE
JEPT RALLY AGAINST THE VICIOUS
DRON BOTS MONSTERS.

ONE WILKIN DRAWS HIS
BOTH POWERS TO
CONTROL THE BEAST.

...TO FORCE THEM
TO KILL!

NIGHT BLUNDER DRAWS THE
WILLS OF JEPT BATTLE
INVESTIGATION ONE HAS
LEARNED.

...TO DIVERT AND DEFEAT
THE DROG BOTS MONSTERS.





SEKKET
IT IS AN
EVIL DAY.
I HAVE BEEN
DRIVEN TO
KILL.



YOU'VE
ALREADY CAUSED
ENOUGH HARM,
PARKSIDER!



OOO
WILIM, MY OWN
STUDENT!

NGRE TSSHH,
WHERE DID I FAIL
YOU?

SEEING HIS GITH ACCOMPLISH FALL, CRADO KNOWS
HE CANNOT FIGHT THESE JEDI HIMSELF...

...BUT HE DOESN'T BELIEVE HIS FORMER
LOVER SYLVAR, WILL HARM HIM.

SYLVAR!
DON'T--!

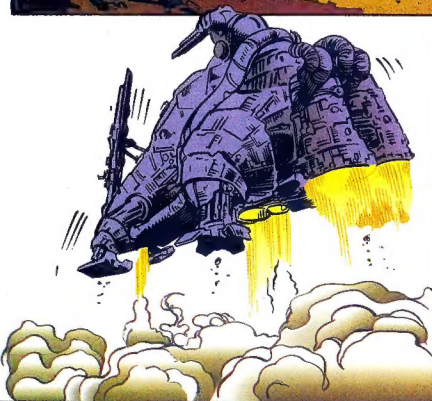
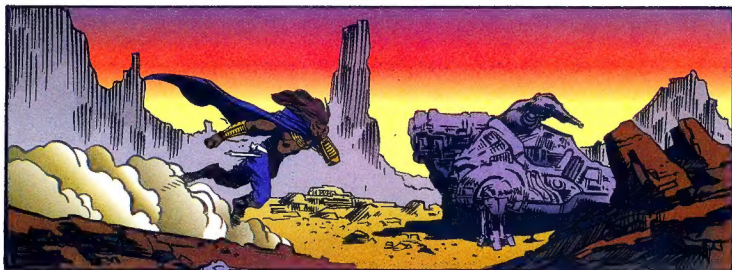
CRADO,
TRAITOR!



MURDERER!

MASTER
VODO IS DEAD, AND
YOU HELPED ENAK
KIN!

AAAKKKHHH!



EVEN THROUGH HIS PAIN AND FAILURE, CRADO THINKS OF TIMES PAST...

...WHEN SYLVAR INFLICTED A SIMILAR WOUND ON HIS MENTOR, EXAR KEN.

SYLVAR...

CRADO IS GONE FOREVER, A PART OF THE DARK SIDE.

BUT WE KNOW ONE WILLIAM AND CRADO! THEY WERE TRYING TO KILL US ALL.

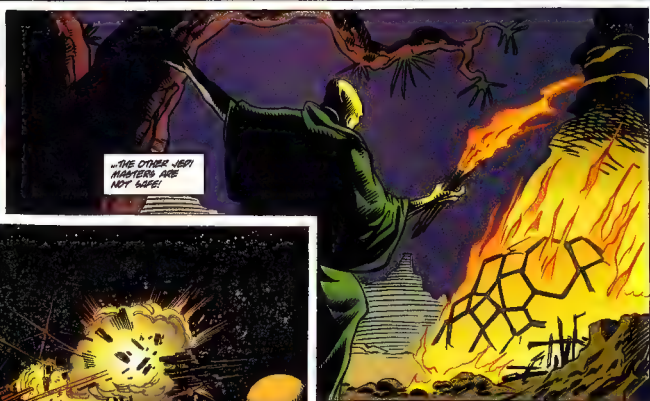
BUT WHY, MASTER THEN?

NURRK I FEAR THAT I WAS THE TARGET FOR A JEDI STUDENT TO ATTEMPT TO MURDER MY OWN MASTER...

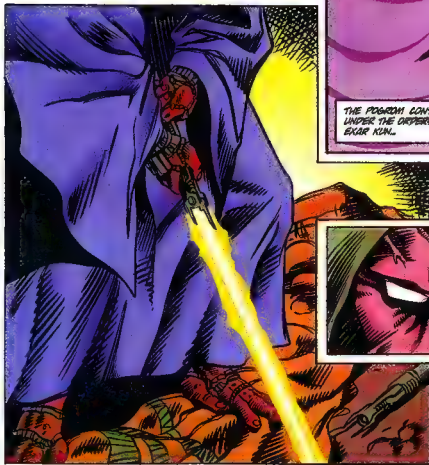
"I CAN ONLY HOPE THE OTHER MASTERS ARE SAFE."



BUT ELSEWHERE ACROSS THE GALACTIC REPUBLIC...



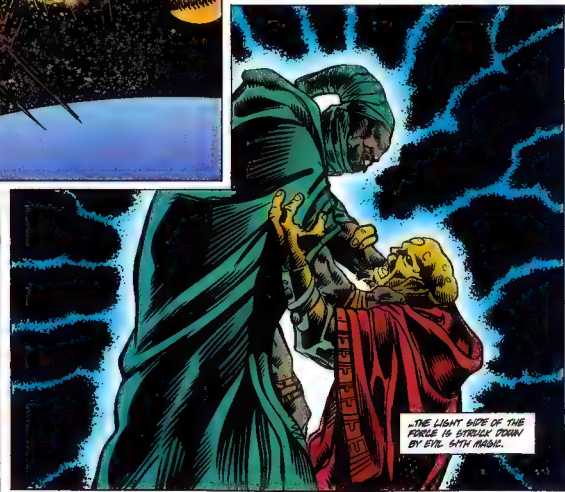
...THE OTHER BEST WARRIORS ARE NOT SAFE.



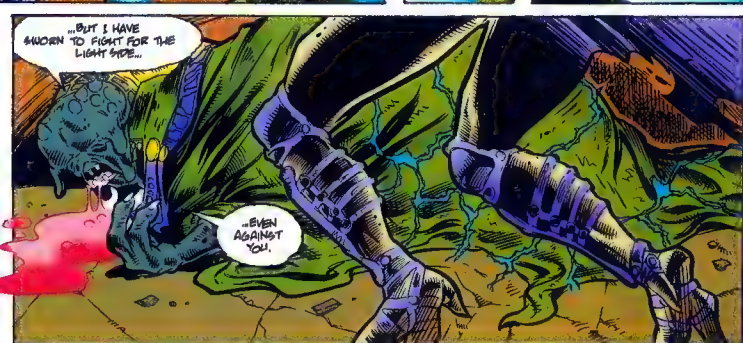
THE PODRAN CONTINUES, UNDER THE ORDERS OF EXOR KIN.



...EFFICIENT KILLING MASTER...



...THE LIGHT SIDE OF THE FORCE IS STRUCK DOWN BY EVIL 64TH ARMY.



IN THE WAKE OF THE 5TH ASSASSIN
ATTACKS, THREE JEDI KNIGHTS
STUMBLE UPON A SCENE OF
CARNAGE.

SADLY THIS IS NOT THE FIRST
FALLEN JEDI MASTER FOUND
BY GREL TOR, DACE DIATH,
AND SHOANES CULLI.

WHY
WOULD ANYONE
WANT TO KILL
MASTER
DOMINUS?

LOOKS
LIKE HE PUT
UP A GOOD
FIGHT.

THIS IS THE
CAUSE OF THE GREAT
DISTURBANCE IN THE FORCE
THAT I SAW WITH MY
INNER VISION.

ZONA LUKA!

BUT
WHY WOULD SHE
ATTACK HER OWN
MASTER?

"SHE MUST HAVE
HAD POWERFUL
WEAPONS."

THIS IS A BLOW TO
OUR HEARTS. JUST LIKE THE DEATH
OF MASTER VODO.

THIS WAR
OF THE SITH IS SPREAD BY
MILITARY MIGHT AND EVIL USE
OF THE FORCE--

--BY ULIC
GEL-DROMA
AND EXAR
KUN!



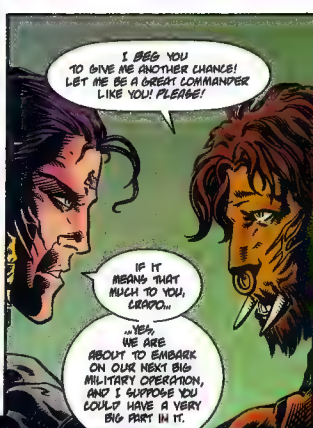
AVIN FOUR, INSIDE THE GREAT MASSASSI TEMPLE.

WE
FAILED YOU, EXAR!
I FAILED!

OH, WILLUM
WAS CAPTURED AND MASTER THON
STILL LIVES.

THERE
WAS NOTHING I
COULD DO!

A
MINOR
SETBACK,
CRADO, MY
FRIEND.



I BEG YOU
TO GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE!
LET ME BE A GREAT COMMANDER
LIKE YOU! PLEASE!

IF IT
MEANS THAT
MUCH TO YOU,
CRADO...

...YES,
WE ARE
ABOUT TO EMBARK
ON OUR NEXT BIG
MILITARY OPERATION,
AND I SUPPOSE YOU
COULD HAVE A VERY
BIG PART IN IT.



THANKS TO
ULIC, ALEEMA HAS ALREADY
BEEN CHOSEN TO LEAD
THIS STRIKE.

CRADO
WILL BE HER BATTLE
COMMANDER.

YES,
EXAR!

WE WILL
STRIKE AT KEMPLEX
NINE IN THE AURIL SECTOR.
IT IS AN IMPORTANT JUMP-
STATION. WE CAN WRECK MUCH
OF THE REPUBLIC FLEET
THERE--

AND DESTROY
THEM WITH SITH MAGIC!
EXAR KUN, SHOW ME THIS
ANCIENT WEAPON YOU
PROMISED!

INSIDE THE CONTROL ROOM OF NAGA SADOW'S ANCIENT 6TH SHIP.

A THOUSAND YEARS AGO, ONE OF MY PREDECESSORS, THE DARK LORD NAGA SADOW, USED THIS SHIP TO FLEE REPUBLIC FIGHTERS.

HERE IS THE POWER TO WRENCH FIRE FROM THE STARS... LET ME SHOW YOU HOW TO USE IT, ALEEMA.

YES! I CAN SENSE THE 6TH POWER VIBRATING THROUGH THE WALLS.

THIS IS IMPRESSIVE, EXAR!

I AM YOUR WAR COMMANDER, LORD ULIC! HAVE I DISAPPOINTED YOU IN SOME WAY? WHY DO YOU DENY ME THE CHANCE TO LEAD THIS MISSION?

WHY DO YOU GIVE IT TO HER? YOU KNOW WHAT SHE HAS DONE TO YOU IN SECRET.

YES, I KNOW SHE IS A VILE TRAITOR WHO PRETENDS TO LOVE ME.

BUT BY KNOWING ALEEMA'S TREACHERY, I CAN ALLOW HER TO SERVE OUR CAUSE IN ONE FINAL WAY.

IF ONLY CRADO WASN'T SO EAGER. HE IS COMPLETELY LOYAL...

...BUT HE'S WEAK--AND BECOMING A NUISANCE.

BEFORE THE FINAL DEPARTURE OF THE ASSAULT FLEET AGAINST KEMPLER NINE...

WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU, ULIC? I'LL BRING US GLORY!

NOTHING... GOOD LUCK.

I WON'T LET YOU DOWN, EXAR! WE'LL DEFEAT THOSE JEDI.

YES, CRADO. YOU WILL HELP BRING ABOUT OUR ULTIMATE VICTORY.

AND WHEN THIS BATTLE IS FINISHED, WE'LL MARCH IN TO OSSI AND TAKE EVERYTHING OF VALUE TO THE JEDI KNIGHTS!



AT THE GREAT LIBRARY ON OSSLUS, JEDI KNIGHTS GATHER TO EXPRESS THEIR OUTRAGE.

EIGHT GREAT JEDI MASTERS DEAD IN THESE BRUTAL ASSASSINATIONS!

HOW CAN I NOT FEEL RESPONSIBLE! MY BROTHER, ULUK, HAS JOINED FORCES WITH EXAR KUN!

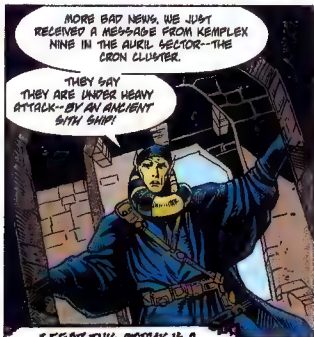
THIS IS THEIR DOING!

YES...IT'S ULUK. HE HAS NEVER FOUND HIS WAY BACK FROM THE DARK PATH.

CRADO IS WITH THEM AS WELL.

WE'RE FRENCH! WE MUST PUT OUR FEELINGS ASIDE.

THIS IS A WAR OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS.

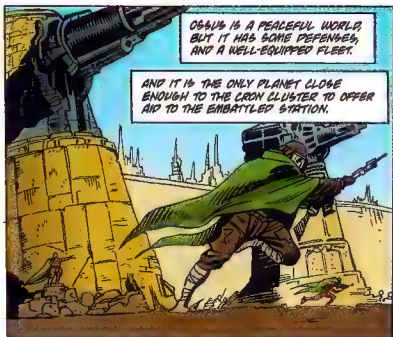


MORE BAD NEWS. WE JUST RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM KEMPLEX NINE IN THE AUKIL SECTOR--THE CRON CLUSTER.

THEY SAY THEY ARE UNDER HEAVY ATTACK--BY AN ANCIENT SITH SHIP!

I FEAR THIS ATTACK IS A FEINT. WHAT COULD THEY WANT AT KEMPLEX NINE?

EVERYTHING EXAR KUN COULD DESIRE IS HERE ON OSSLUS. WE MUST BE VIGILANT.



OSSLUS IS A PEACEFUL WORLD, BUT IT HAS SOME DEFENSES, AND A WELL-EQUIPPED FLEET.

AND IT IS THE ONLY PLANET CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE CRON CLUSTER TO OFFER AID TO THE EMBATTLED STATION.



LET THE THREE OF US LEAD THE COUNTERATTACK ON KEMPLEX NINE. WE'LL TAKE COMMAND OF THE FLEET.

YEAH, GIVE US SHIPS AND WE'LL SLAUGHTER THOSE SITH KILLERS!

YES, THE REST OF YOU STAY HERE AND PROTECT OSSLUS.

EMPLEX NINE WAS A BUSTLING CITY IN SPACE...

...THE ONLY INHABITED STATION IN A HOT, UNSTABLE CLUSTER OF TEN STARS KNOWN AS THE CRON CLUSTER.

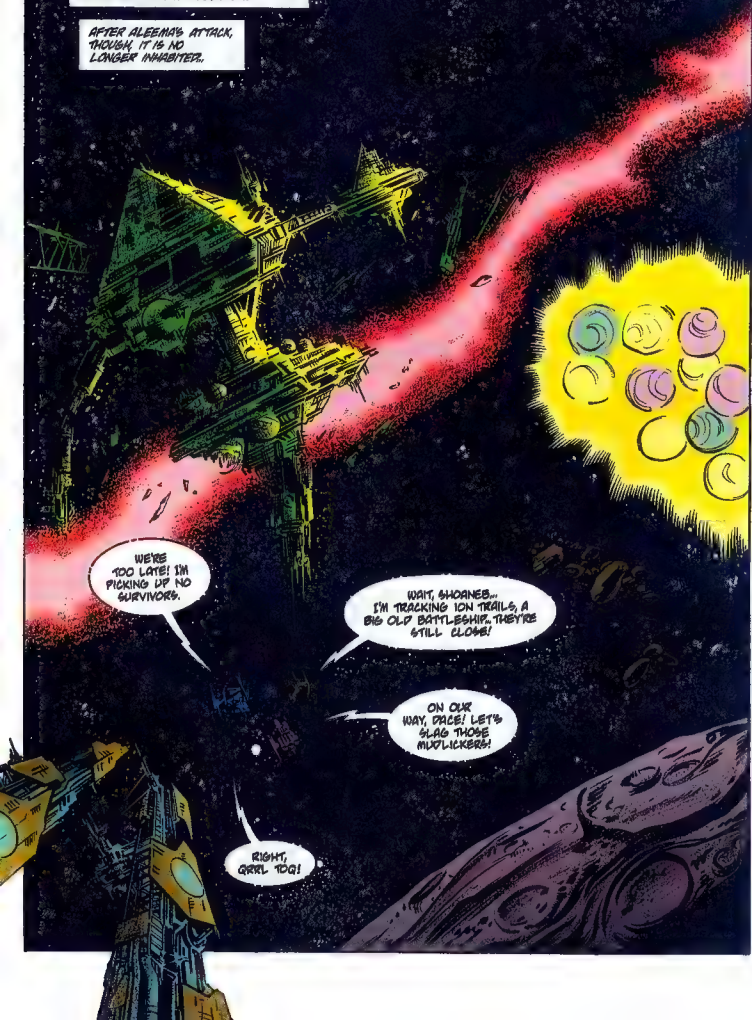
AFTER ALEENA'S ATTACK, THOUGH, IT IS NO LONGER INHABITED.

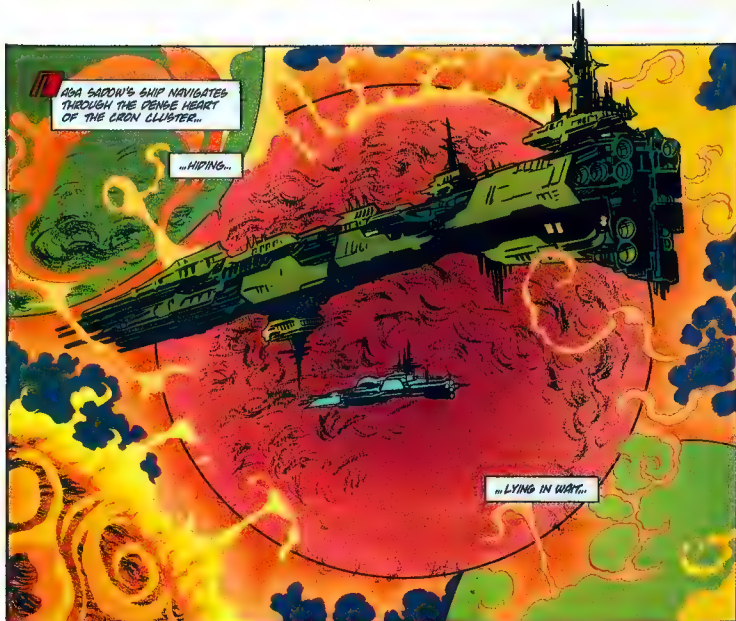
WE'RE TOO LATE! I'M PICKING UP NO SURVIVORS.

WAIT, SHOANES... I'M TRACKING ION TRAILS, A BIG OLD BATTLESHIP. THEY'RE STILL CLOSE!

ON OUR WAY, DACE! LET'S SLAG THOSE MUCKLICKERS!

RIGHT, QREL TOQ!





AGA SADOW'S SHIP NAVIGATES
THROUGH THE FENGE HEART
OF THE CRON CLUSTER...

...HIDING...

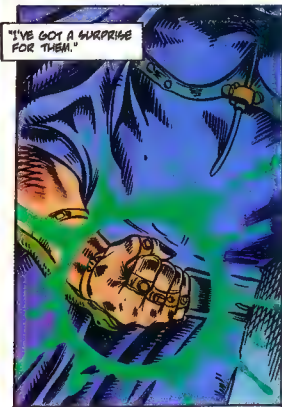
...LYING IN WAIT...




ALEEMA KNOWS THE JEDI
FORCE MUST FOLLOW.

NAGA
SADOW'S WEAPONRY
IS SO POWERFUL... I
CAN'T WAIT TO USE
IT.

WHY
DON'T THEY
HURRY UP
AND FIND
US?







LEENA HAS USED THE 6TH POWER
IN NAGA SADOUS' ANCIENT SHIP
TO RIP THE CORE FROM THE
CENTER OF ONE OF THE TEN
STARS IN THE CRON CLUSTER.

SHE TOSSES THE FLAMING,
RADIOACTIVE CORE
DIRECTLY INTO THE MIDST
OF HER JEDI PURSUERS...

...EXACTLY AS EXAR KUN
HAD PLANNED!

GREL TOO, PACE DUAH,
AND SHONAB CULU
DON'T HAVE A CHANCE!

9

ATHED BY GAMMA RAYS, X-RAYS, AND
IONIZED FIRE, THE SHIPS ARE
STERILIZED IN AN INSTANT; ALL LIFE
ABOARD INCINERATED IN A WHITE-
HOT FLASH.

THE THREE JEDI SHIPS
ARE DEAD, BURNED-
OUT HUSKS.

EVEN THEIR DISTRESS SIGNALS
HAVE BEEN SILENCED.

EVERYTHING HAS WORKED ACCORDING TO THE PLAN
OF EXAR KUN AND ULIC GEL-PROMA...


...BUT THERE IS MORE TO THE PLAN.

THE
WEAK JEDI FORCES ARE
OBLITERATED!

EXAR KUN
WILL BE PROUD OF US--
WAIT!

THE STAR!
THAT ISN'T SUPPOSED TO
HAPPEN.

BUT I'VE
SHUT DOWN THE WEAPONS
POWER SOURCE!



LEENA'S GAMBIT OF TEARING FREE A
STELLAR CORE HAS SET UP A CHAIN
REACTION INSIDE THE STAR...

...CAUSING IT TO COLLAPSE...

...TO IMplode!

ESCAPE!
FULL FORWARD!

IN AN INSTANT ALL THE BROODING
POWER CONTAINED WITHIN A GIANT
STAR IS UNLEASHED.

...WITH NO PLACE ELSE TO GO--
BUT OUTWARD!

IN HER LAST MOMENTS, ALBEAN
SUDDENLY KNOWS THAT HER
TREACHERY HAS BEEN EXPOSED!

AAA!

LONGER, HOWEVER, DIES WITHOUT AN EXPLANATION.

EXAR KUN!
...HMM?

THE GLAST FRONT HITS OTHER TIGHTLY
PACKED STARS IN THE CLON CLUSTER...

...CATAPULTING THEM OVER THE BRINK
TO ANNIHILATION AS WELL.

ALL TEN STARS FEEL A SUDDEN INFERNO
MORE PENETRATING THAN ANYTHING THE
GALAXY HAS EVER SEEN!

NEARBY OBOLU, THE REMAINING STOREHOUSE
OF WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE AND ARTIFACTS
LIES DIRECTLY IN ITS PATH!

IT'S DONE.
EXAR KUN DID
YOU FEEL THE
DISTURBANCE
IN THE
FORCE!

YES...THEY
WILL HAVE NO
CHOICE NOW BUT
TO ENGULF US
OBOLU.

WHEN THE
GREAT LIBRARY IS
UNDEFENDED WE WILL
STRIP IT CLEAN OF ALL
THEIR PRECIOUS
SECRETS!

EXT BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER!

JEDI JOURNALS

10956 SE MAIN ST., MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

INTERNET—DHC@teleport.com • AMERICA ONLINE—DHCComics@aol.com • COMPU SERVE—72303.2501@compuserve.com

We've got an extra-length, extra-strength letter column this month, so I'm just gonna move outta the way and listen to more of your comments on *The Sith War* #1!

Carlton P. Pimentel
61 Irene St.
New Bedford, MA 02745

Thank you for expanding the *Star Wars* universe in a clear and non-contradictory manner. While I realize that you are following Mr. Lucas' dictates, it is obvious that the staff of your company cares about the quality of your product, and that is a bonus for all of us fans. Regarding your suggestions and responses to Mr. Fleming's letter in issue #1 of *The Sith War*, I, for one, would like to see a couple of things:

1) A Naga Sadow series would be great if told from his point of view. The *Star Wars* saga has always been told from the hero's point of view. It would be interesting to see a series told from the villains', to see what drives them to the dark side, etc. A character with no redeeming qualities might be difficult to relate to, but seeing the motivations of such a person would also bring others such as Kun and Palpatine into sharper focus.

2) Why not tell the story of the formation of the Jedi themselves? It could be the most fascinating story ever written in conjunction with *Star Wars*. The formation of the Old Republic and the trials that it faced would definitely have drama, romance, political intrigue, deception, betrayal; all the things that make a real cool story. (Not to mention the inventor of the lightsaber would be included in such a tale. That alone would be great.)

3) One last thing: how about a series concerning the exploits of the Jedi Academy graduates?

4) It's a large universe and there are many places to play, but for now, these areas interest me the most. As *The Sith War* develops, things might change. Again, keep up the good work!

P.S.: I forgot this. More stories in the *River of Chaos* tradition would also be appreciated. Women are definitely underused as characters and need more development. Why are all the Jedi Masters male? I leave you now to ponder this.

David Tayman III
Internet: dtayma01@mail.orion.org

Only one word comes to mind when I think about the entire *Tales of the Jedi* series: wow. I have been reading *TOTJ* since the first issue of the original. I love the way it unfolds the history of the Jedi and the Sith. They are, in a sense, what makes *Star Wars* interesting. It's what separates *SW* from other Sci-Fistories. Other than the comics, I also read the novels, including Kevin J. Anderson's fantastic Jedi Academy trilogy, which links Luke Skywalker and the cast of the future to Exar Kun and the cast of the past. On that subject, I received a pleasant surprise when getting my hands on *Sith War* #1, when instead of Tom Veitch's name, I saw Kevin J. Anderson's! It is, however, how it should be. After all, Kevin did write in *Dark Apprentice* what is to happen in *The Sith War*.

Thanks again for a great comic, and may the Force be with you...

Aron Christianson
18701 15th Loop NE
Poulsbo, WA 98370

I admit I was a little skeptical about *Tales of the Jedi* when it first started. Could a story without Luke, Han, Leia, and the rest of our favorite characters really fly? When this series began, I found it hard to get into these new characters, but some 14 issues later with *The Sith War* you guys have dispelled all doubt about Ulic and company. Hugh Fleming's cover on issue #1 was breathtaking. He and Dave Dorman should be commissioned to do theatrical posters for the new films. Their styles fit perfectly.

Dario Carrasco, Jr.'s pencils are glorious. They evoke the same feelings I felt when I saw *Star Wars* in the theater for the first time. Kevin J. Anderson's script is full of action, intrigue, and emotion. The only (very minor) problem I have with the story is that there is not a character, like C-3PO or R2-D2, to lighten up the darkness of this whole title. It would be a relief to break out of all the seriousness once in a while and have a little fun. That's not a complaint, just a suggestion.

I have all the respect in the world for everyone at Dark Horse. Your commitment to quality is second to no other company in the business. I used to buy all those other superhero comics from other companies who claim "You must buy this." I found that the books were nothing more than a

fancy cover, with nothing on the inside that was worth the price I paid. Long live Dark Horse and *Star Wars* and — may the Force be with you.

Zak Daczyk
4221-172nd St. N
East Moline, IL 61244

I just finished the first issue of *Sith War* and thought it was great! I can't wait to see what's next, even though I have a pretty good idea from reading the Jedi Academy trilogy. The only thing I found wrong is that the artwork in this issue and the 6th issue of *Dark Lords of the Sith* has dropped big time. It's not nearly as detailed, and all the colors are so much lighter. I think it would be great after *The Sith War* if you made comics about the further adventures of Ulic Qel-Droma (assuming he comes back to the light side) and Nomi Sunrider, and all the other Jedi Knights. I also think it would be a great idea to make comics of Naga Sadow, the ancient Sith, the Great Hyperspace War, and other fallen Jedi. Maybe even the early days of the Old Republic. I think it was a great idea to make a comic series of *Heir to the Empire*, and I look forward to that and *Empire's End*.

Gary Lacroix
616 Manville Rd.
Woonsocket, RI 02895

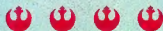
Thank you for printing my letter quite some time ago in *Classic Star Wars* #15. I must say it is my favorite issue for obvious reasons! It made me feel that I played a part in the *Star Wars* universe, no matter how small that part may have been. My letter has been immortalized, frozen in carbonite if you will, waiting to be read long after by the next generation of *Star Wars* fans who discover the wonder and excitement of the saga. I would also like to thank you for sending me a preview copy of *Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi — The Sith War* #1. This makes a unique addition to my ever-growing Dark Horse collection! Here is my review of issue #1, which I will try to keep short:

The story line was interesting and full of adventure — the two right ingredients for a successful comic! Mandalore's face armor is reminiscent of Boba Fett's. Perhaps a prototype, much later refined to be used in the Clone Wars. I also enjoyed Master Odan-Urr's words on p. 12, where he says:



"In the old days, Dark Lords of the Sith built meditation chambers in their warships." This must be a craft not forgotten, because if you remember in *The Empire Strikes Back*, Darth Vader is interrupted while in a chamber on his ship. Could this be the type of meditation chamber to which Odan-Urr is referring...? Hmm. I would also like to welcome your new pencil, Dario Carrasco. Judging from my preview copy, I'm sure most people will be quite happy with his work. I'm looking forward to seeing the colored finished copy. In closing, I would like to put a slight twist on a quote from Obi-Wan Kenobi, for anyone who has been searching for quality *Star Wars* comics: "You must learn the way of the Horse!"

'Til next month, see ya!



Christian Bladt
RD4, Box 134
Greenwood Lake, NY 10925
America On-Line: BladtCG@aol.com

First of all, I want to commend you on being available via the Internet. I hope that this is the start of a growing trend, not only among Dark Horse titles, but the comics industry as a whole. It certainly makes the concept of writing to one's favorite books far more attractive.

With that said, I'd like to move on to the heart of the matter, that being that it seems *The Sith War* will live up to my expectations based on the magnificent *Tales of the Jedi* books that have come in the past. Thankfully, Kevin J. Anderson has successfully made the transition from novels to comic books. At first, I wasn't sure how well his talent would translate to this visual medium. His work on *Tales of the Jedi* is comparable to his outstanding Jedi Academy series.

While I have to admit that the artwork in *The Sith War* #1 wasn't as much to my liking as that in past incarnations of *Tales of the Jedi*, it was quite good. I think that it'll just take a couple of issues for me to adapt to the artwork of Dario Carrasco and Jordi Ensing. The colors excellently suited the story by using mostly purple, blue, and gray to emphasize the power of the dark side. I also, of course, adored Hugh Fleming's cover with Ulic Qel-Droma and the Mandalorian.

The mere presence of the Mandalorians pleased me to no end. I like the fact that you incorporated something from the Marvel *Star Wars* series. The design of the Mandalorian armor was really cool because it was what it *should* have been: Boba Fett armor, but in a style a few thousand years older. I think that there were really some great original characters, settings, and situations from the old Marvel series, and the Mandalorian story from issues #68-69 was one of the more enjoyable.

The action in general has taken an interesting, albeit inevitable, course: monitoring the progression of the maturation of these Jedi over the last two years — whether it be further into the depths of the dark side of the Force, or, as in the case of Nomi Sunrider, becoming more sure of herself as a Jedi Knight. I'm looking

forward to the upcoming showdowns between Nomi Sunrider and the Sith Lords, and between the Sith Lords themselves, which will, of course, be their ultimate downfall. I really can't wait to see how it all turns out.

The idea of a series detailing the life and times of Naga Sadow and the fall of the Sith Empire suggested in the letters page sounds like a very interesting and worthwhile series. I would also like to see the great Jedi Master Nomi Sunrider's daughter Vima in a limited, or preferably an ongoing, series. I think that there is a lot that can be done with both of these scenarios. Finally, I was glad to see the return of the letters page. Bob, I'm going to hold you to your promise of having a Jedi Journals in every issue of *The Sith War*. In all the years that I have been reading comics, the letters page has always been a favorite feature of mine — especially in the case of Dark Horse's *Star Wars* comics, because there's always so much information on upcoming projects, and the interesting stories of all the readers' involvement with *Star Wars*. So, hopefully, it will continue throughout the remainder of this series and any others to follow. Otherwise, you'll hear from me. (Actually, I'll continue to comment on your series one way or the other.) Keep up the excellent work.



Mike Frost
Internet: mfrost@mn.interact.net

Your efforts to continue the honor and excitement of Lucas' wondrous world have moved me to write this note of my appreciation. Several years ago I caught wind of the *Dark Empire* project in the works at Dark Horse, and immediately set my sights on the target release date. I was already somewhat experienced with the comic-book realm, with a growing pile of Marvel and Image comics. However, nothing that those companies had to offer could satisfy my hunger for information and entertainment within the *Star Wars* universe. Dark Horse came through, and stands as the only remaining publisher that captures my audience in the ever-increasingly expensive hobby of comic-book collecting.

The *Tales of the Jedi* saga nourishes a special area of my imagination. It captures the epic nature so characteristic of the movies — titanic space battles spanning dozens of worlds, incredible space-age technology (albeit appropriately archaic), and supernatural abilities wielded by seemingly ordinary men and women empowered by the Force.

The most intriguing institution in Lucas' realm is the Force. The Force separates *Star Wars* from every other form of science fiction, appealing to the human fascination with mystery and the supernatural, while also existing as such a prevalent and necessary facet of the *Star Wars* myths. The entire story line of the movies revolves around the existence and manipulation of this Force. However, the movies cannot possibly teach all there is to know in the ways and history of the Force. *Tales of the Jedi* moves closer to appealing

my personal hunger for information about the famed Jedi.

I am also much pleased with the decisions you have made in the presentation of these stories. I much prefer the six-part installments to the more traditional method of producing an indefinite line of monthly books. Your choice makes each story, as well as the entire saga, easier to follow. Collectors of most comic titles today must have entire collections of hundreds of comics and their related titles to understand references to past stories in future comics. Imagine how impossible this is for someone who has just decided to follow a title such as *The Uncanny X-Men*. *The Sith War* installment continues the tradition of excellence you have established, in art and story content. (I was especially intrigued by the appearance of the Mandalorian warriors in this issue. Will there be any future reference to Boba Fett's roots?) I hope you will choose to continue that tradition. By the way, I, like many other faithful followers of the *Star Wars* comics, was extremely disappointed in what seemed to be a rush job on the last issue of *Dark Lords of the Sith*. In an industry with such a reputation for excellent artistry, that issue just didn't cut it. I am glad to see that you have regained your insistence on excellent art in *Tales of the Jedi: The Sith War* #1. Continue pumping out *Star Wars* titles. Lucas has left his universe wide open for infinite expansion. As long as my income remains healthy enough to keep up with the comic-book industry's trend toward more expensive, Dark Horse's *Star Wars* projects will always hold a place in my mind, and on my shelf.

May the Force be with you all.

Thanks to everyone who's written us in response to *The Sith War* so far. We've received far more correspondence than we could ever possibly print here, but rest assured that we do read each and every letter, and we take each of your suggestions and criticisms very much to heart. Hey... we wouldn't be where we are without you, so keep reading and writing!



NEXT MONTH:

It's brother against brother, as Ulic and Cay Qel-Droma square off on Ossus. Be here for the stunning confrontation between light and dark. See you in 30.

— Bob Cooper